Statement

STATUS OF RURAL TELEPHONY

Status as on	No. of rural Exchanges	Switching capacity (LAKH)	DELs(LAKH)
31-12-2002			
1.4.1998	18360	38.05	29.90
1.4.1999	19288	48.92	63.53
1.4.2000	21669	67.29	48.42
1.4.2001	24870	93.34	66.87
1.4.2002	26953	120.81	90.25
31.12.2002	27948	136.19	106.65

Internet Pornography

1558. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that internet pornograpy has all its bad impact on the Indian society particularly children and adolescents; and

(b) if so, what is the mechanism adopted to check and contain access to this malady?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) IT Act 2000 has provisions under Section 67 to punish anyone who publishes (in the electronic form) of any material which is lascivious or appeals to the prurient interests.

The Government is setting up an Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN). CERT-IN has been authorized to order blocking

access from Indian Territory, to Internet Websites publishing such lascivious material.

Setting up of Software Technology Parks of India

1559. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been facilitating growth of information technology by establishing Software Technology Parks of India as primary infrastructure;

(b) the number of Software Technology Parks of India established in Jharkhand indicating the locations and salient features thereof; and

(c) the details of Software Technology Parks established in other States and the plans, if any, for expansion thereof during the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) To promote IT export from the country, the Government has introduced Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and EHTP scheme under EXIM policy.

(b) No STPI center has been set up in the State of Jharkhand. A project proposal for setting up of STPI (HSDC) facility and incubation center at Ranchi was considered and approved by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for funding of Rs. 3.5 crores under new scheme, namely, Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE), in March 2002. A grant-in-aid of Rs.2 crores has already been released to the Government of Jharkhand.

(c) As of now 37 centers have been set up all over the country as detailed in Statement enclosed. (*See below*) The setting up of new center is based on export potential as well as the State Governments' willingness to provide land, built up area and financial support.